THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The tourism infrastructure development related to development of Buddhist Circuits in India has been identified for assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Improvement of Tourist Facilities at Hemkunt Sahib

2331. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans to improve facilities at the most popular tourist destination Hemkunt Sahib in Uttaranchal and what is the budget allocated for this destination and also the other actions taken to develop and promote this place; and

(b) the number of persons visiting this place and how many of them are from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Development and improvement of facilities at religious places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year for providing financial assistance under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development and Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects. No amount is earmarked for development of any place.

Project proposals that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of *interse* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

Details of the Central assistance sanctioned for Uttaranchal are as under:

Year	No. of projects Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
2002-03	3	612.50
2003-04	2	213.14
2004-05	6	2184.98

(b) Tourist arrivals in Uttaranchal during last three years are as under.

Year	Domestic	Foreign
2002	10606504	45070
2003	10835241	55228
2004	11720570	62885

However, tourist arrival figures are not maintained for particular destination.

Promotion of tourism in Punjab

2332. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what new initiatives and marketing strategies have been formulated by Government for promotion of tourism during 2005-06 in Punjab;

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the number of tourists expected in Punjab during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourist related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year for providing financial assistance under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(b) No, amount is earmarked but projects are sanctioned subject to the project proposals being complete in all respect, their *inter-se* priority and availability of fund under the respective head.

(c) No target is fixed for arrival of tourists.

Allocation of funds for tourism in Tamil Nadu

2333. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated for the development of tourism in the country for the Tenth Plan period;